

considered. So it is possible that my guess about the moth being newly emerged was correct.

Mr. N. T. Nadkerny at the Society's office, who kindly verified my identification, agrees with me that this is a case of persistent vitality similar to the one described by Mr. Gay.

65 PALI HILL,

BANDRA, BOMBAY 50-AS,

D. E. REUBEN

September 13, 1968.

[An instance of persistent vitality is given by M. A. Wynter-Blyth in his article 'The Nilgiris Revisited' in vol. 48 (1949) of this *Journal*. Writing on the Nilgiri Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela aurofasciata*) preying on the longicorn beetle (*Dorysthenes montanus*), he states that 'It is no uncommon sight to see one of these longicorns (which, if helpless against their enemies, are at least tenacious of life) walking briskly about though entirely disembowelled'—Eds.]

25. PREFERENCE OF CASTOR VARIETIES FOR
FEEDING AND OVIPOSITION BY THE LEAFHOPPER
EMPOASCA FLAVESCENS (F.) (HOMOPTERA,
JASSIDAE)

I was very interested in S. Jayaraj's paper under this title (1968, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 65 (1):64-75) as some years ago Dr. V. G. L. van Someren recorded that the larva of *Charaxes etesipe* Godt., (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera) *etesipe*, would only eat the green-, or white-, stemmed variety of Castor, and preferred to starve rather than eat the red-stemmed, although both varieties were considered to belong to the same species by the Kew authorities. This is particularly strange as the larva of this subspecies also feeds on other Euphorbiaceae such as *Phyllanthus*, *Tragia* and *Croton*, whilst the larva of ssp. *tavetensis* Roths. feeds on Leguminosae, such as *Afzelia* and *Cassia* (Caesalpinaceae), *Dalbergia* (Papilionaceae) and *Entada* (Mimosaceae). With a monophagous larva such selectivity is understandable, but not when a larva feeds on several species of plant.

Has Mr. Jayaraj noticed any correlation between acceptability and stem colour?

MOMBASA,
July 24, 1968.

D. G. SEVASTOPULO, F. R. E. S.